

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

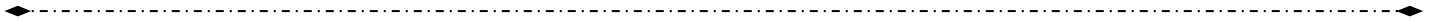
Meeting Date: June 8, 2017

Agenda Item: Blacktail Meadows Fishing Access Site Proposed Easement (R3)

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Endorsement

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 Min



Background:

Blacktail Meadows Fishing Access Site (FAS) is located on the outskirts of Dillon, MT adjacent to the north exit of the I-15 interstate. The 14 -acre site was donated to the Department in May of 2002 by the Swenson family. It was subsequently developed as a family fishing pond. The 14-acre site is bisected by Swenson Lane which is a paved thoroughfare providing access to local homes and businesses. The fishing pond is located on the north side of the road and Blacktail Creek on the south side. The fishing pond was created when the gravel pit used for construction of Swenson Lane road filled with water. The property is currently bordered by the interstate exchange, the YMCA and a scrap metal recycling yard.

The Department proposes to review a request to provide a road easement through the south side of the FAS in exchange for fee title to a small parcel of adjoining property. FWP would gain 48,400 sq. ft. of land that includes approximately 465 additional lineal ft. of Blacktail Creek frontage. In exchange, FWP would grant a road easement encompassing roughly 9,800 sq. ft.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

The landowner has provided several letters of community support. They include a letter from the Swenson family who initially donated the land for the FAS to FWP, the City of Dillon and the Beaverhead Trails Coalition. Additional public scoping would be conducted by FWP during its environmental review process.

Alternatives and Analysis:

Alternatives and the subsequent analysis will be conducted by the Department upon approval by the Commission.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale:

FWP recommends that the Commission endorse the Department to proceed evaluating the proposal for a road easement. The public would gain additional land and additional access to both sides of Blacktail Creek for fishing.

Proposed Motion:

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission endorse FWP's request to pursue the proposed road easement request at the Blacktail Meadows Fishing Access Site.